

The Caisson Corner

Camp Liberty, Iraq

March, 2006

From the Battalion Commander

We are over a third of the way through our deployment and the Iron Caisson's keep rolling along! Every day our Soldiers are out "Supporting the Fight" all over the base complex and in the city of Baghdad. You'll notice in this issue of the newsletter that our Soldiers are involved in all kinds of vital missions.

The CSM and I are constantly awestruck by the things our Soldiers have accomplished. I thought that I would give you a small taste of the vast supplies and services 589th has performed in the short time we have been deployed.

The entire Iron Caisson team has combined to complete every mission. Each one can not hap-



pen with out the focus and teamwork of each company. Over 50 transportation and escort missions have left the forward operating base and safely executed missions in and around Baghdad traveling over 2,500 miles of Iraqi highway. We have delivered over 300 barriers to help improve the security at Iraqi Police checkpoints in the city. We have received and processed over 700 vehicles and other equipment for return to Kuwait for refurbish-

ment. Our maintenance team has completed over 205 work orders for equipment repair not to mention the countless hours and days of preventive maintenance they perform to keep us in the fight.

Every member of the Caisson team is an important and contributing asset to "Supporting the Fight" as are our loved ones back home. We could not continue to do what we do with out your unwavering support. Please enjoy this newsletter and stay connected with our Soldier's and your Family Readiness Group.

IRON CAISSON'S
LTC BARRY A. DIEHL



Inside this issue:

- Commander and CSM send
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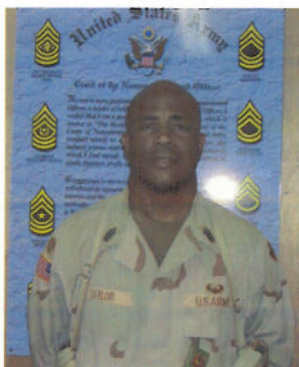
589th Soldier, SPC Stacey of A Co, gets ready to head out on a convoy security mission

From the Battalion Command Sergeant Major

Soldiers and their families are the corner stone of our Army and certainly of the Iron Caisson's. I know that our families are well taken care of by our strong and caring FRG but I want to take the opportunity to share with you how well our Soldiers are taken care of here while deployed. Our Soldiers have access to many of the comforts of home here in Camp Liberty. A full array of service are provided. There is a full services post office and finance center for

daily needs, A large PX and a local bazaar that offers every conceivable item. Four hot meals a day await our troops at our dining facility with vast choices for healthy eating.

Each Soldier is afforded some time off to enjoy these many amenities. Sundays are particularly special to Soldiers and there



-CSM Eric L. Taylor

are religious services designed to accommodate all faiths and practices. Our Soldiers will always miss home and loved ones but I can assure you that they are well taken care of and watched over by a truly caring group of Non-commissioned officers and their safety and well being is our solemn duty. "Support the Fight"

Check us out on the Web @

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/Units/Firesbde/589SB/589nl.html>

Visit the 4ID Website for up-to-date information and news@

<http://www.hood.army.mil/4id/>

The Caisson Corner



PFC Huey from HHC, Support Operations Section performs preventive maintenance to keep the Hammer Heads vehicles running

Headquarters Company "Hammer Heads"

Greetings from FOB Liberty!

The soldiers have done outstanding things in the 87 days that we have been here at Camp Liberty. The soldiers have continuously participated in duties that entail escorting the local nationals, pulling guard at the PX, and Interpreter guard duty. They have done all this in conjunction with the Class I Missions that they have been assisting the Rough Riders with. The PSD soldiers along with LTC Diehl have also been participating in these missions. We need

to also congratulate SGT Lorenzo on his decision to Re-enlist and serve his country for another 5 years. We also promoted yet another great soldier PFC Jimenez to SPC. He is a very hard worker and this promotion was very much deserved. I want to welcome another new soldier and his family, SFC Perez. Welcome and we are very happy to have you join us. Last but not least I need to thank a very special section within HHC. That section is the S4 shop. SFC Parks and his soldiers have done nothing but an outstanding job since we have been in country. They are responsible for all the nice things we have. THANK YOU! Everyone in HHC continues to work hard every day. The ISG and I want to say

thank you to everyone for all your hard work and dedication. We appreciate each and every one of you. Keep up the great work HHC. You have come a long way.

-CPT Annette M. Whittenberger

- ISG Cherry Sibert

Help Keep Our Soldiers Safe!

There are a lot of cell phones and other phones available to Soldiers in Iraq. There is an equally amount of technology available to our enemies to use phone conversations against us. Help us stay safe by never discussing troop movements, locations, times or dates over the phone



A Company "Rough Riders"

Greetings once again from Iraq! We have continued to learn, grow and develop here in Iraq. The Rough Riders are performing in an outstanding manner and we have truly made our mark on Victory Base. Our young Soldiers are accomplishing tasks and are gaining confidence in themselves and in their equipment. These efforts have improved the unit's operational capabilities and has played a part in maintaining our high morale level. Everyday I am amazed at the product and progress of both my Soldiers and my leaders.

At the end of this month, we will have our first Video Tele-Conference (VTC) and I encourage you to come out to see your family members face-to-face. The FRG team at Fort Hood has all of the particulars concerning this event. We continue to re-enlist Soldiers, promote Soldiers and award Soldiers. Although these are great incentives. However, nothing motivates the Rough Riders more than letters and

care packages from home. This is the ultimate morale booster!

More and more Soldiers are headed home for environmental leave (EML). Every Soldier will have an opportunity to partake in EML and the Soldiers will have enough time to notify you of their arrival dates. Our Rough Rider FRG is doing a phenomenal job. I encourage each and every one of you to allow these ladies to assist you as needed. They are Nancy Burns FRG Leader; D'Ana Ervin and Lisa Sellers are the FRG Co-Leaders.

At this point in our deployment, season changes are milestones for us. Therefore, we are looking forward to Spring! Continue to keep us in your prayers and we will keep you in ours.

One Team, One Fight... Rough Riders!

-CPT Samuel A. Burns

-ISG Hubert Ervin



A Company Soldiers receive guidance and motivation from their "TOP" Non-Commissioned Officer, ISG Ervin before executing their daily mission.

Some "Rough Riders" take time for a group photo before their convoy security mission. Pictured are SSG Weeks, SPC Bell, SGT Pallicios, PFC Solomen, SPC Townsend, PFC Smith, PFC Chliakova, SPC Stacey, and SPC Navaro



B Company "Bandits"

Greetings from Iraq to all the family and friends of Bravo Company. As we move into our 4th month of deployment things are going well, and we have settled into a regular battle rhythm here at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the friends and families of our deployed Soldiers for all their support over the past months and that their support has made life here better with each passing day. Thanks for the many cards, letters, emails, and packages. I would also like to thank our Family Readiness Group for all they do, and for helping each other out when necessary.

Over the last month many great things have happened for the Soldiers of B Company. One that brings great joy to me is the promotion of truly deserving Soldiers. We promoted SPC Hippensteel and SPC Crawford from Private First Class. This is a sign that the Army and those of us in B Company have faith that they will carry out their new found responsibilities with honor and distinction.



Major General J. D. Thurman the 4th Infantry Division and Multi-National Division –Baghdad Commander spends some time visiting with 589th Soldiers at the Bravo Company lead Small Arms weapon range. The Commanding General awarded several commanders coins to Soldiers for excellence and praised all for their great efforts in accomplishing our mission.

Another great honor that is always a privilege to participate in is the reenlistment of fine Soldiers. B Company had several Soldiers and NCOs re-enlist over the past month like SGT Williams, SGT Thompson, SPC White, SPC Aguilera, and PFC Braley. I personally thank them for their continued commitment and service to our great country and the United States Army. Be proud of and continue your support to our deployed Soldiers, they are doing great things in defending our country and helping the Iraqi people in their endeavor for freedom and democracy.

Again, thank you for your support and all that you do.

-CPT Brett C. Wheeler

-ISG William Tucker II

The Caisson Corner



PFC Peters of S&R section installs one of the many improvements to add extra protection to up-armored vehicles



Postal Information: Sending Mail to Deployed Soldiers

PFC Jones, Paul (Include Soldiers Rank, Last, First Name)

A Co, 589th BSB, 4ID (Soldiers Company, 589th BSB, 4ID)

Unit # 43087

APO AE 09344-3087



The Caisson Faces of the Iron Caissons Corner



SGT Daniels from A Co prepares a Heavy Equipment Transport Trailer for an upcoming mission. The chains and binders are used to secure large equipment for movement



PFC Ulrich from B Co performs an annual service on an up-armored vehicle. A vital mission that keeps the brigades equipment fully mission ready



Above: SPC Yantis of HHC receives some assistance from ISG Sibert the HHC ISG as she prepares her Palletized Loading System for a night mission



SGT Wilson of B Co Shop Office process repair parts received in the consolidated Motor Pool.

Right: An A Co Palletized Loading System (PLS) and crew roll out to deliver barrier material to Iraqi security check points in and around Baghdad. A Co has executed several of these missions delivering over 300 such barriers.



Faces of the Iron Caissons The Caisson Corner



Left: PFC Ashburn of B Co orders critical repair parts and conducts automated maintenance management on the Unit Level Logistic System-Ground in the Motor Pool.

Below: B Co Soldiers take time for a group photo after a long day turning wrenches in the Motor Pool



Top: SGT Garner takes the Oath of Enlistment from his Platoon Leader LT Gerhardt, both of A Co, SGT Garner is one of nearly 50 Soldiers who have re-enlisted in theater for huge bonus and the opportunity to serve their country for a few more years

Right: A Co Distribution Platoon members receive some additional training on the HET. The HET was a new piece of equipment that the unit was provided in theater and has spent over 80hrs of both classroom and hands on instruction to become fully capable on the equipment



The Support Operations Section poses with the newest SFC in the battalion. SFC Jules of our Support Operations Transportation(SPOT) section was promoted on March 1st in record time. She is a vital member of the SPOT team which plans and tracks all our convoy missions. The coordination and planning this section accomplishes keeps our Soldiers safe and gets the mission done

The Caisson Corner



S2/3- Operations

The S3 shop welcomes two new additions to our team, SFC Graham and SFC Perez, who have quickly demonstrated great leadership skills and potential to be a great asset to the section and the 589th BSB.

During the past month, the 589th Leaders have begun a Leader's Development

Program focusing on training that will help to better lead our Soldiers in the execution of their mission during OIF 05-07. We had focused in the development of procedures to better and safely execute Combat Logistic Patrols to deliver multiple commodities of supplies to different locations within the Baghdad area of operations.

Our Soldiers continue to train in the essential tasks that prepare to execute their assigned missions, by qualifying on their assigned weapon systems, and in the systems that will enhance their capabilities in the battlefield. Safety training is constantly being conducted to reduce the risk of Soldiers being injured during the execution of their day to day

missions. Combat lifesaver classes are being offered to our Soldiers to better prepare them to render initial medical assistance to other Soldiers or civilian personnel in time of need.

We will always strive to polish and develop our Soldiers in the tactical skills required to successfully complete our assigned mission and we'll execute them diligently and professionally as we only know how. Support the Fight!

The 589th BSB S2 and S3 Officers take a break to show off the new Iron Caisson hats, pictured from left to right are CPT McHugh, CPT Madera, and CPT Ortiz



Iron Caissons Majors



The 589th BSB XO (MAJ Kelly Sandifer) and 589th SPO (MAJ Todd Bertulis) enjoy a morning cup of "Joe" in the Battalion TOC prior to starting their day.

They are the whips of the battalion staff and trusted confidants to commanders. They are the "Iron Majors" of the Caisson Team.

The XO manages the internal functions of the battalion while the SPO manages the external support functions; both making sure all IRON CAISSONS are poised and ready to render support to whoever, whenever, and wherever needed. 589th BSB continues to achieve great success on the battlefield of Iraq making progress every day and continuing the string of "firsts" that started at Fort Hood many months ago. Over the past months, 589th conducted its first Combat Logistics Patrol (CLP) rendering assistance to

the Iraqi people, changed out its first HMMWV Engine (a significant feat if you look at where we were 6 months ago), and we celebrated our first year in existence. Yes it was only a short year ago, January 2005, that we began this journey that started on 16th Street, took us to the motor pool near Hood Road, found us in Camp Virginia Kuwait, and now on Camp Liberty Iraq. IRON CAISSON Soldiers work hard every day, accomplishing many missions simultaneously, with great success, and make a difference daily in the efforts of the Fires Brigade and 4th Infantry Division. SUPPORT THE FIGHT!!

The "Iron Caissons Steppers" preformed as part of the 589th Celebration of Black History Month. The program consisted of reading, poetry, song and dance, along with a motivational guest speaker and was presented by the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program. BOSS is a Soldier run and lead grass roots organization designed as a forum for the desires of Soldiers. The Black History Month program is just one of the many "Soldier service" projects BOSS has spearheaded since our deployment.

